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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /087 W
----------251153Z 100189 /14
R 250845Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6561

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0286

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - MARCH 25 (SUMMARY)

REF: PORT LOUIS 0257

1. LABOR AND THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) LAUNCHED THEIR JOINT CAMPAIGN FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AT PUBLIC RALLIES WHICH SAW FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO (NUMBER TWO IN THE LABOR PARTY) AND PMSD LEADER GAETAN DUVAL APPEARING TOGETHER ON A PLATFORM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS. THEY BOTH EXHORTED THE VOTERS TO SUPPORT THE COALITION TO KEEP THE "COMMUNISTS" OUT OF POWER. RINGADOO WARNED OF THE DIRE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF A MMM VICTORY, AND DUVAL SAID THE MUNICIPALS WILL GIVE MAURITIANS ONE LAST CHANCE TO SAVE THE COUNTRY FROM COMMUNISM. DUVAL WARNED IN A PRESS INTERVIEW THAT A MMM WIN WOULD LEAD TO EITHER A DICTATORSHIP OF THE LEFT OR ONE OF THE RIGHT, A STATEMENT THAT PRODUCED AN ANGRY RESPONSE FROM THE MMM LEADERSHIP, WHO IN TURN ACCUSED DUVAL OF THREATENING TO SET UP A RIGHTIST DICTATORSHIP. THE COALITION PARTNERS ARE STRESSING THE DANGERS TO THE MAURITIAN DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM POSED BY THE MMM, AS WELL AS THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY IF THE MMM WERE TO COME TO
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POWER. FOR ITS PART THE MMM IS CLAIMING TO BE THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE THAT WILL INEVITABLY COME TO POWER SOON, SO ONE MIGHT AS WELL JOIN THE MOVEMENT NOW.

2. THE MMM ON MARCH 20 CHOSE 15 OF THE 35 MEMBERS OF THE PARTY'S NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THREE OF THE PARTY'S LEADERS--- BERENGER, BHAYAT AND JUGNAUTH -- EASILY WON SEATS, BUT

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SEVERAL OTHER LUMINARIES FAILED OF ELECTION. THEY WILL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE WHEN THE 20 DISTRICT MMM ASSEMBLIES ELECT ONE REPRESENTATIVE EACH. THE CHOICES MADE FOR THE FIRST 15 ARE BEING INTERPRETED BY THE PRESS AS A SHIFT TO THE LEFT IN THE MMM LEADERSHIP. AT THE THIRD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION ON MARCH 22 THE GOVERNING COALITION TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ITS EXPERIENCE AND OUT-TALKED AS WELL AS OUT-VOTED THE OPPOSITION MMM, WHICH DISPLAYED WHAT THE PRESS TERMED NAIVETE, LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNMENT PRO-CEDURES, AND SOME GENERAL INEPTITUDE. MRS. GANDHI'S DEFEAT IN THE INDIAN ELECTIONS HAS SHOCKED THE LABOR PARTY LEADER-SHIP, WHICH HAS LONG HAD CLOSE TIES WITH HER AND HER CONGRESS PARTY, BUT PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM WAS RESTRAINED IN HIS PUBLIC REACTION. THE MMM SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER HAS STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S "FAILURE" TO LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN TO TAKE DIEGO GARCIA BACK FROM THE BRITISH (SEE PORT LOUIS 280).
KEELEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Review Release Event: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MP
To: STATE
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